

Glory and Grace

John 3: 16,17

"For all have sinned

Rom. 10:3

and come short of God's glory.: Rom. 3:23

For Christ is the end of the struggle
for righteousness..
Romans 10:4

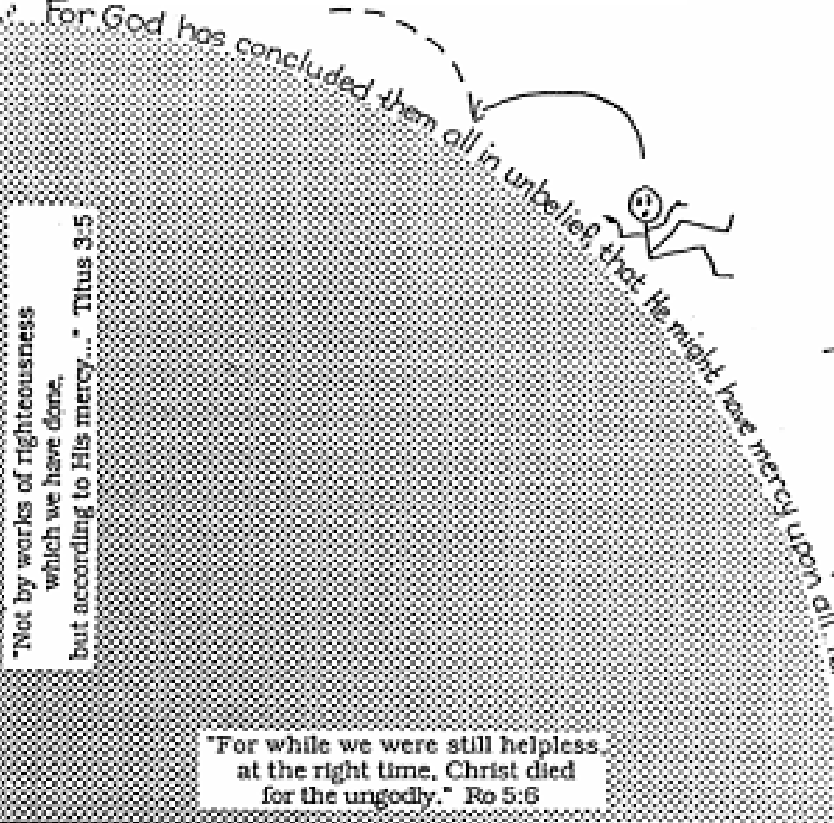


the Way,
the Truth,
and the Life.
John 14:6

"...for if there had been a law which could have given life, then righteousness should have been by the law." Gal 3:21

10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

...for there is no difference. Romans 3:10



...for there is no difference. Romans 3:10

"...to redcm them that were under the law..." Gal 4:5

Whosoever

Belief

Forgiveness of sins Col 1:14
Eternal life 1 John 5:11,12
Peace with God Rom. 5:1

I will sing
of my
Redeemer...

Ephesians 2: 8-10
Philippians 3: 9

Die in sins John 8:24
Condemned already John 3:18
Wrath of God John 3: 36

Line — "For if righteousness came by the law then Christ is dead in vain." Gal 2:21

Saving Grace

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God (Rom. 10:3, KJV).

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:19, 20, KJV).

Is the law then against the promises of God: God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe (Gal. 3:21, 22, KJV).

But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:23-26, KJV).

For Christ means the end of the struggle for righteousness-by-the-Law for everyone who believes in Him (Rom. 10:4, Phillips).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved (John 3:16, 17, KJV).

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom. 10:14, KJV).

He that believeth on him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him (John 3:18, 36, KJV).

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith (Phil. 3:9, KJV).

GRACE for the Rest of Your Life

SAVING GRACE

SAVING GRACE (The Level): Man's Futile Struggle for Righteousness; Ground Level at the Cross; Christ Ends the Struggle; Clothed in His Righteousness

This lesson deals with God's Saving Grace for our justification. Salvation is comprised of three aspects: justification, sanctification, and glorification. Justification is not by works, sanctification is not by works, and glorification is not by works. *It is all by grace through faith* (Eph. 2:8). Most religions in the world add works to merit salvation/justification. Those who understand that salvation/justification is not by works, have a tendency then to add works to sanctification. Why? Because man has a predisposition to add works or merit to please God. Some even have a tendency to add works to glorification. It is man's nature to want to work for some aspect of salvation.

There are two religions in the world: Do! and Done! We believe in the finished work of Christ. There is nothing we do to merit it, and nothing we do to pay it back. We accept God's gift. It is His grace initiative, and we respond in faith. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast"* (Eph. 2:8-9).

Man's Futile Struggle for Righteousness

Use a measuring stick or a ruler (marked with increments from 1 to 10), which will represent a "good and evil" barometer. Imagine that this ruler is like a ladder that people feel they need to climb in order to reach God. Let's place a figure (the "masked bandit" representing evil) down at number 1 and a "good" figure at number 10. Five is the mid-point. Below five represents "bad," above five represents "good."

Where would we place ourselves on this scale of 1 to 10? Some might place themselves at the bottom by number 1, and some might feel confident enough to say they belong at the top by number 10. Most will say their lives are consistent with a 6 or 7 rating. "I lead a pretty decent life; I have not robbed a bank; but I also know I am not perfect." We find people all along every increment of the ruler. Those at the top are probably thinking their chances of reaching God and spending eternity in heaven are pretty good. Those at the bottom despair because they know they are too bad to be saved.

All the figures are struggling to establish their own righteousness. However, Romans 10:3 says, *"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."* Notice the one on top, stretching, but still coming short of God's glory, because *"all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"* (Rom. 3:23).

This ruler could also represent the Ten Commandments. We may have kept most of them, but James 2:10 states, *"If you offend in one point, you are guilty of all."* There is not much hope if there has been any failure at all—even the best of the best fall short. Read the verse along the side, *"For if there had been a law, which could have given life, then righteousness should have been by the Law"* (Gal. 3:21). *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy..."* (Tit. 3:5).

Ground Level at The Cross

The Lord informs us that ***“there is no difference”*** (Rom. 3:10) between the people on the ruler. He wants everybody to see that they are level in His sight. *“God has concluded them all in unbelief that He might have mercy on all”* (Rom. 11:32). Now rotate the imaginary ruler down to lay flat. The **ground is level** at the foot of the cross.

Now the bandit is stuck underneath the ruler. Another one is lying under the Law. There is another one draped over the top, and another one hanging on for dear life. Look at the fellow bouncing down from the top—he is on his way down because God is just making everyone level. The one at the top has to come the same way as the one at the bottom. *“For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly”* (Rom. 5:6).

Here is an example of how the Law works. Draw (freehand) a vertical line on a sheet of paper. Now next to that, draw a line with a straight edge. Now you will see how far off you are. This exercise shows that even the best we can come up with will not be perfect. Some will have a straighter line than others, but none will have a perfectly straight edge. No one will reach that ultimate standard. The Law came to show us how far we were off. It did not come so that we would keep trying to make “straight lines.” It came to expose the kind of lines that we make on our own.

The Law came to expose us and show us our need for salvation, *“Now we know that what things so ever the Law says, it says to them who are under the Law, that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the Law shall no flesh be justified. For by the Law is the knowledge of sin”* (Rom. 3:19-20).

The law is for the self-righteous, to humble their pride;
The gospel is for the lost, to remove their despair...
Should the shepherd go after those who never went astray?
The sinner is the gospel's reason for existence.

(C. H. Spurgeon)

“Before faith came, we were kept under the Law, shut up unto the faith, which would be revealed later. So the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ that we might be justified by faith” (Gal. 3:23-24). The way is not by perfect performance; it is by faith in Christ.

Let's look at God's side of this whole story—the right half of the visual.

We start with God (Glory and Grace), and then we introduce Jesus. John 3:16-18, 36 says, *“For God so loved the world [show left half of visual], that He gave His only begotten Son [point to the cross], that whosoever, [note the whosoever bridge] believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world [or annihilate it], but that the world, through Him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He that believeth on the Son, hath everlasting life. He that believeth not the Son, shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*

God is giving an option to this whole row of mankind (on the bottom of the card) that has been equally leveled. Now anyone can come to Jesus — the way back to God is JESUS. *“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man cometh to the Father but by Me”* (Jn. 14:6).

Christ Ends the Struggle

The top of the ruler has Romans 10:3 which says, *“They are going about to establish their own righteousness.”* Compare with Romans 10:4 at the top of the cross, *“Christ is the end of the struggle for righteousness.”* So here is the struggle for righteousness to reach God (on the left), and here Christ is the end of the struggle for righteousness (on the cross). No more struggling!

In Acts 4:12 we read, *“Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”* The Apostle John writes, *“This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”* (1 Jn. 4:9-10).

Notice the heart at the base of the cross. This is God’s love, and it is covering up our sin. *“Love covers a multitude of sins”* (1 Pet. 4:8). Picture your sin behind this love, as God is reaching down to save us. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, *“He who knew no sin, became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”* This is where the big transaction (the trade-off) took place—at the foot of the cross. It is our sin for His righteousness.

Belief Is the Issue

John 8:24 says, *“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”* Those who carry their sins all through life will die in their sins unless they believe in Jesus. Notice the figure who “fell through the crack.” He did not heed, *“But whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Rom. 10:13).

There is a small cross on each side of the large cross. Note the example of the two thieves on the crosses, one of them did not believe, and he went into eternity without God. The other thief did believe and Jesus Himself said to him, *“Today you shall be with Me in Paradise”* (Lk. 23:43). **Belief is the issue.** Everyone is a sinner, but among sinners there are some who accept the offer of grace and some who do not. That is why the Way is by faith.

One cross is labeled Unbelief. The results of unbelief are as follows:

- They will *“die in their sins”* (Jn. 8:24).
- *“They are condemned already”* (Jn. 3:18).
- *“The wrath of God abides on them”* (Jn. 3:36).

The other cross is labeled Belief. Some benefits of belief are as follows:

- We have the *“forgiveness of sins”* (Col. 1:14).
- We have *“eternal life”* (1 Jn. 5:11-12).
- We have *“peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Rom. 5:1).

Clothed in His Righteousness

Read first ORPHAN LAMBS (on the notes and quotes, at end of lesson).

Philippians 3:9 says, *“And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.”* We are clothed in His “lambskin.” We are clothed in His righteousness, and God accepts us because of the Lord Jesus Christ—not because of anything that we have done, or not done. We are *“accepted in the beloved”* (Eph. 1:6); we are *“adopted as His sons”* (Eph. 1:5).

This is the good news! Gospel means “Good News.” We can come by faith, by accepting something that has already been done for us. It is not anything that we ourselves can do.

Romans 4:16 says, *“It is of faith that it might be by grace.”* There is enough room at the Cross for everybody. The provision is there—free!

Note “The Bottom Line” on the lower left of the visual: *“If righteousness came by the Law then Christ is dead in vain”* (Gal. 2:21).

By way of example, suppose we all heard that there was a cruise ship leaving for the Caribbean, and the captain wanted to take all of us on board—FREE! Everything is paid for. Just come on board. We would probably start questioning among ourselves! “Is this some sort of gimmick?” Or, “Does it really mean all of us? Is there some catch to it?” Or would we say, “Okay, let’s go!” It is not hard. It would not be hard to just believe and climb aboard. That is what God has offered to us. He said, “Just come aboard, everything is taken care of.” Sometimes there is a resistance, a lot of questions, but He made it easy. He made it totally complete. No one has an excuse that they could not come—that they were not dressed for it, they were not prepared for it, or they did not do enough for it. This is the great, good news of salvation!

Here is the crux of the matter. In Latin “crux” means “Cross!” The crux of the matter, the whole solid foundation goes back to Jesus’ coming to die on the cross to free us, and give us forgiveness for our sins. Everyone has the same advantage—the same invitation.

It is God’s initiative in grace; we respond in faith. We can liken it to a great heavenly handshake. He is always reaching down with His grace, He is inviting us to respond and take hold by faith. It is by faith and faith alone.

I Will Sing of My Redeemer!

I will sing of my Redeemer,
And His wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross He suffered,
From the curse to set me free.

Sing, oh, sing of my Redeemer,
With His blood He purchased me,
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt, and made me free

(Philip P. Bliss)

On the visual you can see the happy figure going forth now singing of the Person who redeemed him from this whole system of works and futility. He can now go forth fulfilling the “Great Commission” with great news!

Prayer: Lord, we are very thankful for Your **saving grace**. We are thankful that we could come to You through faith. We thank You that You have provided the way, and it is free. It is nothing that we could do. We thank You that the ground is level at the foot of the Cross, and we pray You will continue to clarify this message in our own hearts. Continue to do that for us, Lord, so that as we go forth sharing Your amazing grace with others, people will also understand and accept You. Thank You for clothing us in Your righteousness. Thank You that You became the Lamb, who was slain for our sin—our substitute. Thank You for this new LIFE we have to share with others. We thank You in Jesus' name. Amen.

Review and reinforce this lesson by incorporating the following notes and quotes pages and by reading the Scriptures.

Are You a Sinner?

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

Only sinners qualify for salvation. In the book *The Transformation of the Inner Man*, Paula Sanford tells of the unusual way she learned this. At the age of eleven, she gave herself to Christ because the minister preached a loving Jesus.

Years later when Paula was an adult, a friend confronted her, "Paula," she said, "you don't know Jesus as Savior. You've never known yourself as a sinner. Only sinners can know a Savior." Deeply disturbed, she asked God to reveal her sin nature to her. Soon afterward, a godly pastor told Paula that before he was a Christian he was a male prostitute. Paula could hardly believe what she was hearing. He had obviously repented, but why was he sharing this? The subject changed and he left. Paula felt threatened and afraid. Was the Holy Spirit revealing that the same capacity to sin exists in everyone – and therefore was in her? For the first time, she recognized that by God's grace, her family, upbringing, and circumstances were such that the evil part of her nature had never expressed itself. But given the same conditions as that pastor, she could have done the same or worse.

Dennis J. DeHaan

**No Jesus, No Peace!...
Know Jesus, Know Peace!**



The Law functioned as a mirror to show men that they were unholy, guilty sinners who could not be saved by keeping the Law. It functioned as a disciplinarian to reveal the holiness of God and restrict Israel for her own good until Christ (the Son of promise) came to free all those who would become sons of God the Father (heirs of the promise) through faith in Him. It functioned as a prison, locking men up to faith in Christ as the only means of salvation. But now, all who put their faith in Christ for salvation have been set free from the law.

David Levy
Israel My Glory

The gift of God is eternal



(turn page upside down to read bottom half)

GRACE... is perhaps the greatest word in the Bible, because it is the word most truly expressive of God's character and attitude in relation to man.
W. H. Griffith Thomas

**O teach me what it meaneth,
For I am full of sin
And grace alone can reach me,
And love alone can win.
O teach me, for I need Thee –
I have no hope beside –
The chief of all the sinners
For whom the Saviour died.**

Lucy A. Bennett

Man's Need: "...Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God..." (Isaiah 59:2).

God's Provisions: "...but, God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us..." (Romans 5:8).

Man's Responsibility: "...For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life..." (John 3:16).

The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

Orphan Lambs

Paul uses a wonderful phrase in Ephesians, “accepted in the beloved” (Ephesians 1:6, KJV). When we have acknowledged our guilt, when we have acknowledged that what we have done is contrary to what God wants, and we stand before Him without trying to defend ourselves, then, Paul says, we are “accepted in the beloved.”

There were many sheep farms in the area of Montana where I grew up. Spring was the season when little lambs were born. But spring in Montana can be brutal; sleet storms can come whirling down out of the north and snow can still be three or four feet deep on the prairies. Often there are long periods of bitter cold during lambing season.

In that kind of weather, many of the lambs and ewes die. As a result, sheep farmers have many mothers whose newborn lambs have died, and many newborn lambs whose mothers have died. A simple way to solve the problem, it would seem, would be to take the lambs without mothers and give them to the mothers without lambs. But with sheep it is not that simple. If you take a little orphan lamb and put it in with a mother ewe, the mother will immediately go to it and sniff it all over, but shake her head as though to say, “Well, that’s not our family odor.” She will butt the lamb away, refusing to have anything to do with it.

But sheep ranchers have devised a means of solving this problem. They take the mother’s own little dead lamb, skin it, take the skin and tie it onto the orphan lamb. Then they put the little lamb with this ungainly skin flopping around – eight legs, two heads – in with the mother. She pays no attention at all to the way it looks, but she sniffs it all over again, and then she nods her head, all is well, and the lamb is allowed to nurse. What has happened? The orphan lamb has been accepted in the beloved one.

There came a time when God’s Lamb lay dead on our behalf and God took us orphans – He does it all the time – and clothed us in his righteousness, His acceptability, His dearness and nearness to Him. Thus, we stand “accepted in the beloved,” received in His place. This is where repentance brings us.

Ray C. Stedman
Understanding Man

Grace:

...to believe and to consent to be loved while unworthy, is the great secret!

W. R. Newell



Lamb Over Me

In Chinese writing, the word for righteousness is formed by placing the character for lamb above the character for the pronoun I. What an appropriate symbol for the righteousness God offers sinners through faith in Christ! He is the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

Our sins form a barrier to our becoming righteous. But God will forgive them and take them away on the basis of the perfect sacrifice of His Son on the cross. To receive His forgiveness, however, our sinful pride and self-righteousness must be abandoned, and we must put ourselves under the perfect righteousness of God’s Lamb.

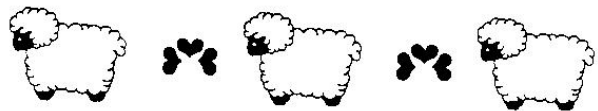
Many good, religious people are offended by the gospel because they want to establish their own righteousness by keeping God’s law. But that is impossible. The law, though good and spiritual, is powerless to save. It shows us God’s perfect standard, but because it is impossible to keep in our own strength, it only condemns.

Are you trying to be acceptable to God by living a good life? Are you trusting in your own righteousness to save you? It won’t work. Only Jesus can take away your sin and give you His righteousness. Are you under the Lamb?

D.L.D., Our Daily Bread

**We can’t approach the holy God
With works that we have done;
Our only hope of righteousness
Is in the Lamb, God’s Son.**

J. D. Hess



Grace is the operation of God’s love on behalf of man. Nothing in the Bible declares that God’s grace operates on behalf of either the fallen or the unfallen angels. Grace seems to be reserved for man alone. *Strombeck*

Salvation is received, not achieved!

Saving Grace

“A man may be saved by works (if he keeps the law perfectly), or he may be saved by faith; but he cannot possibly be saved by faith and works together. Christ, according to Paul, will do everything or nothing; if righteousness is in slightest measure obtained by our obedience to the law, then Christ died in vain; if we trust in slightest measure in our own good works, then we have turned away from grace and Christ profiteth nothing... to trust Christ only for part is not to trust Him at all.”

“Condemnation comes by merit; salvation comes only by grace: condemnation is earned by man; salvation is given by God.”

From J. Gresham Machen, *What is Faith?*:

“When people recognize [that the whole world is trapped and under the dominion of sin] and give up attempts to please God by their own works, the way is prepared for them to receive the promise of salvation ‘through faith in Jesus Christ’” (Gal. 3:22).

“Justifying faith was operative in the Old Testament but faith in the person and work of Christ did not come until He was revealed... The [tutor (Greek paidagogos)] here was not a ‘schoolmaster’ (KJV) but a slave to whom a son was committed from age six or seven to puberty. These slaves were severe disciplinarians and were charged with guarding the children from the evils of society and giving them moral training. This was the Law’s function until Christ came and people could be justified by faith in Him. It is better then to understand that the Law did not *lead us to* Christ but that it was the disciplinarian *until* Christ came.”

Donald K. Campbell
Bible Knowledge Commentary on Galatians 3:21-25

“Granting that anyone has ever done his best, it would still be most imperfect as compared with the infinite holiness of God. God cannot, under any conditions, call that perfect which is imperfect, and He is far from unreasonable in demanding a perfect righteousness, impossible to man, while He stands ready to provide as a gift all that His holiness requires... The Scriptures do not call men of this age to present their own righteousness to God; but invite unrighteous men to receive the very righteousness of God which may be theirs through a vital union with Christ.”

Lewis Sperry Chafer,
Salvation

“Christ paid the awful penalty for sin – death... He paid the price in full. There is nothing left to pay, to do, to join, or to earn. We must only receive Him and trust in what He accomplished for us at Calvary. We are justified ‘freely by His grace’” (Romans 3:24).

AWANA, *Scriptural Evaluation of Salvation Invitations*